

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1436

To assist local communities in the renewal of their public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1997

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STOKES, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DIXON, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To assist local communities in the renewal of their public schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Schools Re-
5 newal and Improvement Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Although the majority of our Nation's ele-
4 mentary and secondary public schools provide high
5 quality education for our children, many schools
6 need additional resources to implement immediate
7 assistance and reform to enable them to provide a
8 basic and safe education for their students.

9 (2) The Government Accounting Office recently
10 found that $\frac{1}{3}$ of all elementary and secondary
11 schools in the United States, serving 14,000,000
12 students, need extensive repair and renovation.

13 (3) Recent reform of under-achieving schools in
14 a number of States and school districts dem-
15 onstrates that parents, teachers, school administra-
16 tors, other educators, and local officials, given ade-
17 quate resources and expertise, can succeed in dra-
18 matically improving public education and creating
19 high performance schools.

20 (4) Such reform efforts show that parental and
21 community involvement in those reforms is indispen-
22 sable to the objective of high quality, safe, and ac-
23 countable schools.

24 (5) Despite the successes of such reforms, pub-
25 lic schools are facing tremendous challenges in edu-
26 cating children for the 21st century. The elementary

1 and secondary school population will grow by 10 per-
2 cent by the year 2005, and over the next 10 years,
3 schools will need more than 2,000,000 additional
4 teachers to meet the demands of such expected en-
5 rollments.

6 (6) Almost 7 of 10 Americans support in-
7 creased Federal assistance to our Nation's public
8 schools, and that support crosses all boundaries, in-
9 cluding cities, towns, and rural areas.

10 (7) When Federal investment in public schools
11 and children has increased, test scores have im-
12 proved, and high school graduation rates and college
13 enrollments have increased.

14 (8) The Federal Government should encourage
15 communities that demonstrate a strong commitment
16 to restore and reform their public schools.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to assist
18 local communities that are taking the initiative—

19 (1) to overcome adverse conditions in their pub-
20 lic schools;

21 (2) to revitalize their public schools in accord-
22 ance with local plans to achieve higher academic
23 standards and safer and improved learning environ-
24 ments; and

1 (3) to ensure that every community public
2 school provides a quality education for all students.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 For purposes of this Act:

5 (1) CONSORTIUM.—The term “consortium”
6 means a local schools consortium as defined in para-
7 graph (2).

8 (2) LOCAL SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM.—The term
9 “local schools consortium” means the local edu-
10 cational agency in collaboration with a group com-
11 posed of affected parents, students, and representa-
12 tives of teachers, school employees and administra-
13 tors, local business and community leaders and rep-
14 resentative of local higher education group working
15 or residing within the boundary of a local edu-
16 cational agency.

17 (3) PARENT.—The term “parent” includes any
18 of the following:

19 (A) A grandparent.

20 (B) A legal guardian.

21 (C) Any other person standing in loco
22 parentis.

23 (3) PLAN.—The term “plan” means a 3-year
24 public schools renewal and improvement plan de-
25 scribed in section 5.

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
4 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
5 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the American Virgin Is-
6 lands, Guam, and American Samoa.

7 **SEC. 4. PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—A request for a declaration by the
9 President that a “public schools renewal effort is under-
10 way” shall be made by a local schools consortium.

11 (b) REQUEST.—The local education agency shall sub-
12 mit the request to the Governor of the State who shall,
13 with or without comment, forward such request to the
14 President not more than 30 days after the Governor’s re-
15 ceipt of such request. Such request shall—

16 (1) include the plan;

17 (2) describe the nature and amount of State
18 and local resources which have been or will be com-
19 mitted to the renewal and improvement of the public
20 schools; and

21 (3) certify that State or local government obli-
22 gations and expenditures will comply with all appli-
23 cable matching requirements established pursuant to
24 this Act.

1 (c) DECLARATION.—Based on a request made under
2 this Act, the President, in consultation with the Secretary,
3 may declare that a “public schools renewal effort is under-
4 way” in such community and authorize the Department
5 of Education and other Federal agencies to provide assist-
6 ance under this Act.

7 (d) PROGRESS REPORTS.—The consortium shall—

8 (1) amend such request annually to include ad-
9 ditional initiatives and approaches undertaken by
10 the local educational agency to improve the academic
11 effectiveness and safety of its public school system.

12 (2) submit annual performance reports to the
13 Secretary which shall describe progress in achieving
14 the goals of the plan.

15 **SEC. 5. ELEMENTS OF RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—As part of its request to the Presi-
17 dent, and in order to receive assistance under this section,
18 a consortium shall submit a plan that includes the ele-
19 ments described in subsections (b) and (c).

20 (b) ADVERSE CONDITIONS.—The plan shall specify
21 the existence of any of the following factors:

22 (1)(A) A substantial percentage of students in
23 the affected public schools have been performing well
24 below the national average, or below other bench-
25 marks, including State developed benchmarks in

1 such basic skills as reading, math, and science, con-
2 sistent with Goals 2000 and title I of the Elemen-
3 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; or

4 (B) a substantial percentage of such students
5 are failing to complete high school.

6 (2) Some or all of such schools are overcrowded
7 or have physical plant conditions that threaten the
8 health, safety, and learning environment of the
9 schools' populations.

10 (3) There is a substantial shortage of certified
11 teachers, teaching materials, and technology train-
12 ing.

13 (4) Some or all of the schools are located where
14 crime and safety problems interfere with the schools'
15 ability to educate students to high academic stand-
16 ards.

17 (c) ASSURANCES.—The plan shall also include assur-
18 ances from the local educational agency that—

19 (1) the plan was developed by the local schools
20 consortium after extensive public discussion with
21 State education officials, affected parents, students,
22 teachers and representatives of teachers and school
23 employees, administrators, higher education officials,
24 other educators, and business and community lead-
25 ers;

1 (2) describe how the consortium will use re-
2 sources to meet the types of reforms described in
3 section 7;

4 (3) provide effective opportunities for profes-
5 sional development of public school teachers, school
6 staff, principals, and school administrators;

7 (4) provide for greater parental involvement in
8 school affairs;

9 (5) focus substantially on successful and contin-
10 uous improvement in the basic academic perform-
11 ance of the students in the public schools;

12 (6) address the unique responsibilities of all
13 stake holders in the public school system, including
14 students, parents, teachers, school administrators,
15 other educators, governmental officials, and business
16 and community leaders, for the effectiveness of the
17 public school system especially with respect to the
18 schools targeted for greatest assistance;

19 (7) provide for regular objective evaluation of
20 the effectiveness of the plan;

21 (8) the agency will give priority to public
22 schools that need the most assistance in improving
23 overcrowding, physical problems and other health
24 and safety concerns, readiness for telecommuni-

1 cations equipment, and teacher training and the pool
2 of certified teachers;

3 (9) ensure that funds received under this Act
4 shall be used to supplement, not supplant other non-
5 Federal funds;

6 (10) certify that the combined fiscal effort per
7 student or the aggregate expenditures within the
8 State with respect to the provision of free public
9 education for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year
10 for which the request for a declaration is made was
11 not less than 90 percent of such combined fiscal ef-
12 fort or aggregate expenditures for the second fiscal
13 year preceding the fiscal year for which the request
14 for a declaration is made; and

15 (11) will address other major issues which the
16 local schools consortium determines are critical to
17 renewal of its public schools.

18 **SEC. 6. ALLOWABLE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—To provide assistance under this
20 Act, the President may—

21 (1) direct the Department of Education, with or
22 without reimbursement, to use the authority and the
23 resources granted to it under Federal law (including
24 personnel, educational equipment and supplies, fa-

1 cilities, and managerial, technical, and advisory serv-
2 ices) in support of State and local assistance efforts;

3 (2) direct any other Federal agency to provide
4 assistance as described in paragraph (1);

5 (3) coordinate such assistance provided by Fed-
6 eral agencies; and

7 (4) provide technical assistance and advisory
8 assistance to the affected local educational agency.

9 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the direction of the
11 President, the Secretary shall distribute funds and
12 resources provided pursuant to a declaration under
13 this Act to local educational agencies selected for as-
14 sistance under this Act.

15 (2) EXISTING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary
16 shall determine the best method of distributing
17 funds under this Act through personnel and existing
18 procedures that are used to distribute funds under
19 other elementary and secondary education programs.

20 (c) PROHIBITION.—No provision of this Act shall be
21 construed to authorize any action or conduct prohibited
22 under the General Education Provisions Act.

1 **SEC. 7. USE OF ASSISTANCE.**

2 Assistance provided pursuant to this Act may be used
3 only to carry out a plan, and to effectuate the following
4 and similar types of public school reforms:

5 (1) STUDENT-TARGETED RESOURCES.—

6 (A) Increasing and improving high-quality
7 early childhood educational opportunities.

8 (B) Providing comprehensive parent train-
9 ing so that parents better prepare children be-
10 fore they reach school age.

11 (C) Establishing intensive truancy preven-
12 tion and dropout prevention programs.

13 (D) Establishing alternative public schools
14 and programs for troubled students and drop-
15 outs, and establishing other public school learn-
16 ing “safety nets”.

17 (E) Enhancing assistance for students with
18 special needs (including limited English pro-
19 ficient students, English as a second language,
20 and students with disabilities).

21 (2) CLASSROOM FOCUSED SCHOOL DEVELOP-
22 MENT.—

23 (A) Establishing teacher and principal
24 academies to assist in training and professional
25 development.

1 (B) Establishing effective training links for
2 students with area colleges and universities.

3 (C) Establishing career ladders for teach-
4 ers and school employees.

5 (D) Establishing teacher mentor programs.

6 (E) Establishing recruitment programs at
7 area colleges and universities to recruit and
8 train college students for the teaching profes-
9 sion.

10 (F) Establishing stronger links between
11 schools and law enforcement and juvenile jus-
12 tice authority.

13 (G) Establishing stronger links between
14 schools and parents concerning safe classrooms
15 and effective classroom activities and learning.

16 (H) Establishing parent and community
17 patrols in and around schools to assist safe
18 schools and passage to schools.

19 (I) Implementing research-based promising
20 educational practices and promoting exemplary
21 school recognition programs.

22 (J) Expanding the time students spend on
23 school-based learning activities and in extra-
24 curricular activities.

25 (3) ACCOUNTABILITY REFORMS.—

1 (A) Establishing high learning standards
2 and meaningful assessments of whether stand-
3 ards are being met.

4 (B) Monitoring school progress and deter-
5 mining how to more effectively use school sys-
6 tem resources.

7 (C) Establishing performance criteria for
8 teachers and principals through such entities as
9 joint school board and union staff improvement
10 committees.

11 (D) Establishing promotion and gradua-
12 tion requirements for students, including re-
13 quirements for reading, mathematics, and
14 science performance.

15 (E) Providing for strong accountability
16 and corrective action from a continuum of op-
17 tions, consistent with State law and title I of
18 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
19 of 1965.

20 **SEC. 8. DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

21 Assistance under this Act may be provided for each
22 of fiscal years 1998 through 2000.

23 **SEC. 9. REPORT.**

24 Not later than March 31, 2000, the Secretary shall
25 submit a report to the Committee on Education and the

1 Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate as-
3 sessing the effectiveness of this Act in assisting recipient
4 local schools consortia in carrying out their plans submit-
5 ted under this Act.

6 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; MATCHING**
7 **REQUIREMENT.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be ap-
9 propriated to carry out this Act—

10 (1) for fiscal year 1998, \$250,000,000; and

11 (2) for fiscal year 1999, \$500,000,000; and

12 (3) for fiscal year 2000, such sums as may be
13 necessary.

14 (b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds expended or
16 obligated under this Act shall be matched (in an
17 amount equal to such amount so expended or obli-
18 gated) from State or local funds.

19 (2) OTHER FEDERAL RESOURCES.—The Sec-
20 retary shall, by regulation and in consultation with
21 the heads of other Federal agencies, establish
22 matching requirements for other Federal resources
23 provided under this Act.

1 (3) WAIVER.—Based upon the recommendation
2 of the Secretary, the President may waive paragraph
3 (1) or (2).

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